

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The rejection of claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over WO 99/49528 in view of JP 2000-268821 is obviated by Applicants' perfection of the priority of the present application.

In particular, Applicants have submitted herewith an English translation of the priority applications JP 11-287781, filed on October 8, 1999, and JP 11-287785, filed on October 8, 1999, which antedate the publication date of JP 2000-268821, published on September 29, 2000. The English translations include a statement by the translator that the translations are true and correct. Therefore, the JP 2000-268821 is no longer be available as prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that new claims 12-20 are allowable over WO 99/49528, since these claims depend from claim 5, in which the reference does not describe or suggest all of the features of the process of the claimed invention.

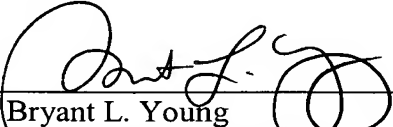
The rejection of claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is obviated by amendment, as shown above.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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